

**REMARKS**

Claim 12 requires that "in response to receiving the semaphore acknowledge message, the thread of instructions is removed from the inactive state." This cannot possibly happen in Wenniger. In Wenniger, what happens is, if process A has control of the resource and process B seeks control, process B may await receipt of an interrupt from the hardware semaphore 120. Thereafter, process B can attempt to control process 110.

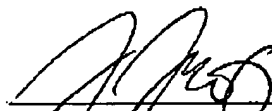
In other words, if the process B was ever in an inactive state (and that certainly is not specified in the reference), it is no longer in an inactive state after it receives the interrupt. But after it receives the interrupt (in other words in response to the interrupt), it is no longer possible that the process B can be in an inactive state. But, in response to the interrupt, it has not been granted "control of the semaphore in response to the semaphore request message."

If the claim is read so that the interrupt is the semaphore acknowledge, then if the thread was in an inactive state, it is removed from the inactive state, but control of the semaphore is not thereby granted because it is still necessary for the resource to query the hardware semaphore. See Wenniger, column 6, lines 15-22.

Conversely, if the claim is attempted to be read on the querying of the hardware semaphore, it is impossible that anything that is received in response to such a query of the hardware semaphore enables a thread of instructions to be removed from the inactive state because it necessarily was removed from the inactive state (if it was ever in the inactive state) in response to receipt of the interrupt. Therefore, there is simply no way to read claim 12 on Wenniger. As a result, reconsideration would be appropriate of the rejection of claims 12 and, for the same reason, claim 26.

Respectfully submitted,

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